

January 13, 2006

News Release

EDGEWATER MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR

BALTIMORE, MD - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein and Mark Bastan, Acting, Special-Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Baltimore announced that today U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Loren Williams, age 45, of Edgewater, Maryland to 15 years in prison followed by supervised release for the rest of his life in connection with his guilty plea on September 6, 2005 to sexually exploiting a minor in order to produce images of that minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The Court also required Williams to register as a sex offender when he is released from prison.

In a statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, Williams admitted that on March 22, 2004, the Ocean City Police Department received a complaint from a male, born in 1989, that he had been sexually molested by Williams. The minor stated that his mother had allowed him to stay in the custody of Williams for days at a time and to take trips with Williams to places such as Ocean City, Maryland. The minor advised that when Williams sexually molested him in Ocean City in August of 2003, Williams videotaped the incident.

According to the statement of facts, Ocean City Police Department and other law enforcement executed a search warrant at Williams' residence and seized several computers, numerous videotapes and photographic equipment. ICE agents searched the computers and videotapes. Williams is seen on a videotape performing sexual acts upon the minor, and reaching for a digital camera and adjusting its position.

"The arrest, conviction and sentencing of this man reiterates ICE's commitment to apprehend and prosecute those who abuse our children and endanger their lives and well-being," said ICE Acting Special Agent-in-Charge Bastan. "We will continue working with federal, state and local agencies to ensure that those who try to hurt our children are brought to justice."

United States Attorney Rosenstein commended the investigative work of the Ocean City Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, and praised Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew G.W. Norman for prosecuting the case.

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ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

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